instructions to all agencies to co-ordinate with local Telecom authorities, while carrying out road construction/widening activities. In regard to cable theft, law and order authorities have been requested for tightening the vigilance. BSNL has also increased patrolling on susceptible routes.

Cable connection between Gajraj Bigha and Nalanda Exchange

2480. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new underground cable was recently laid to connect Gajraj Bigha with Nalanda Exchange as the previous cable was badly damaged;

(b) whether that cable was damaged because standard depth of one metre was not kept and it was laid at a depth of one and a half feet;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new cable has also been damaged because it was again laid at a depth of one and a half feet;

(d) if so, whether Government would enquire into the matter and punish the contractor and officials; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cable was laid at a standard depth. However, the cable was exposed partly during rains/floods, being a kacha road. The cable was also damaged due to thefts.

(c) The newly laid cable has also been damaged at different locations due to road widening works by State Government, although it was laid at a standard depth.

(d) and (e) To prevent damage to cables due to road widening activities, the matter was taken up with the concerned State Government authorities, who have issued instructions to all agencies to coordinate with telecom authorities while carrying out road construction/widening activities. In regard to cable thefts, law and order authorities have been requested for tightening the vigilance by law enforcing agencies. First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged for theft of cables. BSNL has also increased patrolling on susceptible routes.

Setting UP of integrated modern townships

2481. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of draft policy prepared by his Ministry in connection with setting up of integrated modern townships in Tier II and Tier III cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has identified some places in the country for setting up of integrated townships in the country;

(c) if so the details of places identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh for developing them into integrated townships;

(d) whether any private investment is sought in this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The Ministry has prepared a draft policy on setting up of Information Technology Investment Regions (ITIRs), which would be endowed with excellent infrastructure and investor friendly policy environment.

No final view on the policy has yet been taken.

It is envisaged that the State Governments may propose the locations of any ITIRs. At this stage, this Ministry has not identified places for setting up of Integrated Townships in the country.

While this Ministry has not identified places for ITIRs in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had separately requested, in November 1, 2005, to announce Hyderabad as the location of proposed Mega Fab City.

Coverage area under mobile network service extension in Bihar

†2482. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cities, blocks and villages covered by mobile network service extension under Bihar division of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) the details of pending applications of those consumers who are interested in mobile connections and the target fixed for disposal of these applications, district-wise; and

(c) the details of plan for covering the total population of Bihar by mobile service during the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the details of necessary steps being taken for this and the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, BSNL has covered 470 cities, 319 Block Headquarters and 10340 villages by its Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) based mobile network in Bihar State as on 31st July 2007.

(b) Presently, there is no waiting for BSNL GSM mobile connection in Bihar State.

(c) BSNL has planned a capacity addition of 33,17,000 GSM lines progressively during Eleventh Five Year Plan to cover most of the population of Bihar State with a total expenditure of approx. Rs. l381.32 crores. An Advance Purchase Order (APO) has already been placed for capacity addition.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.